

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please add the following at page 1, after the title and before line 1:

BACKGROUND

1. Technical Field

Please add the following at page 1, at line 10:

2. Related Art

Page 1, before line 1, add the following:

BRIEF SUMMARY

Please add the following at page 6, at line 17:

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The accompanying Figure 1 illustrates a flow chart of process steps in accordance with an exemplary embodiment of this invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF EXEMPLARY EMBODIMENTS

Please amend the paragraph at page 7, beginning at line 20 as follows:

Briefly stated, the preferred method of the present invention makes use of a genetic algorithm having the following steps as depicted in Figure 1:

1. ~~At 100,~~ an initial population of individuals is randomly generated, each individual being represented by a string of integers which defines a trial solution;
2. ~~At 102,~~ a fitness value and fitness vector is calculated for each individual, according to an objective function;

Please amend the paragraph at page 8, line 1 as follows:

3. ~~On~~ At 106, on the basis of the fitness values and the fitness vectors, suitable individuals are selected to form a sub-population whose size is a portion of the overall population;
4. ~~At 108,~~ a roulette wheel selection method is then used to create offspring, from the selected individuals, to form a new population;
5. ~~Highly~~ At 110, highly uniform crossover and mutation is applied to the individuals of the new population; and
6. ~~Steps~~ At 112, steps 2 to 5 (boxes 102-110 in Figure 1) are repeated until the algorithm converges.

Please add the following at page 8, beginning at line 10 as follows:

It will be understood that the flow chart boxes in Figure 1 also represent a physical embodiment of this exemplary embodiment (e.g., as embodied in suitable computer hardware and software for carrying out the process steps depicted). Each of these individual steps will be described in more detail below.